

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-5, 9 and, 12-14 stand rejected; claims 6-8, 10-11, 15-16 and 17-20 stand withdrawn from consideration. By virtue of this response, claims 17-20 have been cancelled, claims 1-3, 10-12, and 14 have been amended, and no claims have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 9 and 12-14 are currently under consideration.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

**Drawings**

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a); in particular, the Examiner states: "the axial portion of the set of grooves must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)."

As indicated herein, claim 2 has been amended and no longer recites an "axial portion of the set of grooves." Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

**Specification**

A. The abstract is objected to because "A fluid dynamic bearing motor is provided comprising" is language that can be implied, also "said gap" is improper language for use in the abstract. Applicants have amended the abstract as indicated herein to remove the improper language and request the rejection be withdrawn.

B. The disclosure is objected to because paragraph [0025] contains a blank underlined space. Applicants have amended paragraph [0025] as indicated herein and request the rejection be withdrawn.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112**

Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for the reasons detailed on pages 4 and 5 of the Office Action.

Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 10, 11, and 14 as indicated herein and submit the rejections are now overcome.

**Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102**

A. Claims 1-5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakatani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,046,863).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a fluid dynamic bearing system including “at least one step defined on the second interfacial surface of the journal gap, wherein the at least one step is operable to be positioned axially aligned with a portion of the at least one set of fluid dynamic grooves.” For example, during operation of the fluid dynamic bearing, the step may be positioned axially aligned with a portion of the fluid dynamic grooves, e.g., the longer leg of asymmetric grooves (see also, paragraph [0027] of the present application, for example). Applicants submit that such features are not disclosed or suggested by Sakatani. For example, Sakatani discloses lubricant pits 12 “disposed in the vicinity of the thrust bearing surface 9” (Col. 1, lines 34-39), but fails to disclose or suggest that lubricant pits 12 are disposed “axially aligned with a portion of the at least one set of fluid dynamic grooves,” as recited by claim 1. Further, it is not reasonably suggested to position lubricant pits 12 axially aligned with a portion of the fluid dynamic grooves. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn and claims 1-5 and 9 allowed.

B. Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moritan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,715,116).

Claim 12 has been amended to recite a fluid dynamic bearing motor including “a pressure regulating means cooperating with and opposing the bearing means across the journal

therefrom to maintain proper axial alignment of the shaft and hub with the sleeve.” Applicants submit that such features are not disclosed or suggested by Moritan. For example, Moritan discloses a groove in sleeve 21 positioned between herringbone-pattern grooves 12a on shaft 12 (see Fig. 1c), but fails to disclose or suggest a groove or other pressure regulating means opposing the bearing means across the journal therefrom as presently recited by claim 12. Accordingly, the rejection to claim 12 should be withdrawn and claims 12-14 allowed.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 146712016800. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: March 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Christopher B. Eide

Registration No.: 48,375

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

755 Page Mill Road

Palo Alto, California 94304-1018

(650) 813-5720